

Minutes
Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council
Dorothea Dix Campus, Taylor Building, Room 204
Raleigh, North Carolina
September 13, 2007

Members Present:

Sandra Farmer	Flora Hammond	Marilyn Lash
David Forsythe	Tonia Harrison	Elizabeth Newlin
Travis Glass	Ana King	Jo Perkins
Grey Powell	Sharon Rhyne	Elsie Siebelink
Tom Winton		

Members Absent:

Spencer Clark	Michiele Elliott	Martin B. Foil
Lynn Freeman	Holli Hoffman	Stephen Hooper
Charles Monnett III	Patrick O'Brien	Holly Riddle
Scott Sagraves	Robert Seligson	Jamesa Selleck

Others Present:

Bob Dively	Sharon Schiro	Tami Guerrier
Jim Swain	Sandy Ellsworth	Janice White

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Rhyne at 10:08 a.m. Ms. Rhyne welcomed all Council members and guests. Introductions were made. Jo Perkins from VR distributed information to the Council regarding the "Travel Guide for Disability". Ms. Rhyne announced that Veronica Bohanan has resigned from the Prevention and Early Intervention team. Veronica has been the Council's support staff for a year and a half. It is unclear who will take over in the support staff role. Ms. Rhyne and Ms. Lash will write a letter to Flo Stein at the Division about future staff support. All members were reminded that they need to be better about RSVPs for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Rhyne requested that members review the minutes from the June 13, 2007 Council meeting.

Motion: Made by Tonia Harrison, seconded by Sandra Farmer to accept the minutes as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Confirmation of New Chair:

Ms. Rhyne reported that earlier she had notified the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that she was stepping down, after 4 years, as Chair of the TBI Advisory Council. This is required by the TBI Advisory Council statute. A clear answer was never received from DHHS as to whether a new Chair needs to be appointed by the DHHS Secretary or can simply be elected by the Council; DHHS approved the Council's recommendation, voted on at the previous meeting. Therefore Marilyn Lash will be the

new Chair of the Council starting in December. Ms. Rhyne stated that a new Vice-Chair should be elected at the next meeting.

Ana King questioned what was happening about other appointments to the Council. Sandy Ellsworth reported that there has been some confusion about appointments, although Speaker Hackney has recently made some appointments. She is still working to fill the DMA, Veterans and other positions.

TBI Definition and Related Costs:

Ms. Rhyne referred back to the brain injury definition which was approved at the last Council meeting. She stated that the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch had analyzed data using the ICD-9 codes for the various diagnoses included under acquired brain injury. She remarked that this is a difficult task even with the definition. Sharon Schiro from the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch at Public Health presented acquired brain injury statistics for the year 2005. Ms. Rhyne stated that this information will be sent out to all Council members.

The ensuing discussion enumerated difficulties with the trauma database not being linked to financial data and problems with coding. Sandra Farmer promised to get Florida information for the Council. Dr. Hammond noted that we could look at data and extrapolate the national data to apply to our State based on population. Ms. Lash questioned what this information means for next steps for the Council. She summarized that the broader definition would compromise the State's ability to provide services if all diagnoses were addressed and suggested that the Council examine specific diagnoses. She stated that CVA has the largest incidence and would have the greatest impact in terms of cost.

Ms. Rhyne noted that some of these (ABI) populations may be getting resources from elsewhere within the system. Ms. Schiro will look at cost data. It was agreed that the Council needs to get a profile of who is now being served with break down by cost and age. The Council was reminded that these numbers do not include Veterans. Jo Perkins noted that there is a new Division of Program Evaluation who could look at this. The Chief analyst of DHHS is going to be on this team. Ms. Lash noted that we need to use Veterans information in our strategy to increase TBI funds.

Tonia Harrison noted that ReNu Life has been having financial problems. Ms. Ellsworth stated that she had spoken with someone from ReNu Life several times and suggested looking at licensure under Special Care Units. Ms. Rhyne stated that the Council needs to address this issue and suggested that a separate meeting be held to discuss this issue.

Division of MH/DD/SAS Updates:

Jan White on Prevention:

- The TBI web site has been revised and was presented to the Council. The overall comments were favorable. All on the Council will be sent the link after the meeting and should direct comments and suggestions to Ms. White. Ms. Rhyne

did suggest that contact information should be added for TBI Advisory Council Members and that will be included in the update.

- BrainWorks: An Adolescent Brain Research and Education Program was presented at the Division on August 17th. A proposal will be developed by the Duke researchers who developed the program and presented to the Substance Abuse Prevention professionals for future consideration.
- Ms. White is now managing the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders contract for the Division and will continue to link this with TBI and DD.
- Ms. White has been asked to join the leadership committee for the Shaken Baby Grant which has been received by the Injury Research Prevention Center in Chapel Hill. This will further link TBI to continued prevention activities.
- A presentation was made at the NC Conference on Aging in September regarding identification of TBI in the elderly after a fall.
- An announcement was made of the state TBI Conference by the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina to be held in November. Brochures were distributed.

Sandy Ellsworth on Division TBI Activities:

- The Needs Assessment now has a second contract for \$7000. The goals of the contract include:
 - Literature review
 - Survivor survey development and distribution to TBI Support Groups
 - Provider survey development and distribution to LME providers including MH group homes

Ms. Ellsworth stated that she hoped the final report would be ready to present at the December Advisory Council meeting.

- Continued work on the State TBI Plan to include input from: BIANC, VR and DPI. Jo Perkins suggested getting input from:
 - Division on Aging-Debbie Jackson
 - Services for the Blind-Jan Withers
 - Public Health
 - Division of Health Services Regulation (Formerly DFS)
 - Office of School Readiness (part of DPI)

Sandra Farmer asked if input should be sought from Carolina Legal Assistance since they now house the P&A group. Ms. Lash stated that a draft should be ready by the December meeting with input from at least the major Divisions.

- Preliminary work has begun on the TBI Waiver
 - Presently there is no money for a match
 - A waiver would only cover Medicaid eligible consumers which is approximately 32-34% of our consumers in the state

Ms. Rhyne and Ms. Lash stated that we can work on this issue during the next legislative session in conjunction with the State TBI Plan and the White Paper.

- Ms. Ellsworth reported that she had received a call from Lt. Governor Perdue's office regarding funding for TBI. She gave information regarding NC funding in relation to other states.

- A report was given on Veterans issues discussed at National Association of State Head Injury Administrators Conference in St. Louis. Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart were in attendance and have a North Carolina office in Winston-Salem.

Trust Fund Update:

Ana King reported that a meeting was held with an attorney from the DHHS, Emory Millican, along with Ms. King, Ms. Farmer, Ms. Lash and Ms. Ellsworth. Right now the State Constitution directs all penalty based fines and fees to public education. It was recommended that we look at taxes collected (i.e. alcohol) as a potential revenue stream as opposed to changing the existing fee structure which is mandated under the NC Constitution. It was also suggested that collaboration with DPI be explored regarding how funds received from fines are being used.

Ms. King stated that any proposal for a trust fund must establish a mission and a template for how the funds are to be used. Ms. Farmer reported that there are bills in the House and Senate now that are looking at taxes on all alcohol and malt beverages. It was suggested that some of this type of tax could be set aside for TBI.

Resource Team Pilot Project:

Ms. Rhyne reported that she met with Mr. Winton, Dr. Hooper and Ms. Lash regarding the idea of the mobile teams to serve the schools. Mr. Winton's supervisor agreed that the concept was worth looking at and should be proposed to the Exceptional Children's Directors of all the LEAs. Discussion ensued regarding who would be on the team such as PT, OT, ST, psychologist, nurse and teacher. Additionally, it was discussed that the team would not be for direct service provision but would be for capacity building via inservice education and onsite consultation. Teachers would be trained in educational strategies. These would be regional teams which would assist with identification and implementation of educational plans.

Committee Updates:

Legislative Committee, Sandra Farmer:

It has been decided that legislative advocacy should focus on a small number of issues; for example the Trust Fund and TBI Waiver. It was decided that the Advisory Council should develop a public policy platform and state where the Council stands on global TBI issues.

Health Services and Service Delivery, Michiele Elliott:

In Ms. Elliott's absence, David Forsythe reported that the committee had no new report. The committee did have a question for the Council regarding Communication Bulletin # 75 from the Division. It was unclear to the committee if residential funds were included in CAP funds. Ms. Ellsworth requested time to go back and review the information. Mr. Forsythe stated that the committee would review and put forth specific questions.

Prevention, Liz Newlin:

A report was given regarding the survey of injury prevention programs which the committee would like to conduct. The Division is still in the process of discussing the use of Survey Monkey vs. their own tool, Survey Max. It is unclear at this time which instrument will be used. The committee will be determining how to distribute the survey with the help of NC Safe Kids.

Ms. Rhyne thanked everyone for their participation. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.